

Check this out:

This month's focus is PEDs (Portable Electronic Devices).

The use of PED's issue is one of the most controversial educational issues of the day. The question is not if our kids will have them. The question is how to best use them educationally.

Depending on the district, policies can range from zero access to unlimited use. We think the answer lies somewhere in between.

While the desire might be to return to times when there were no PED's, this is simply not a reality. Studies show the opposite is occurring: more and more students are acquiring and using this technology at ages that are earlier than ever.

The need for teachers to step up and properly instruct students on how to appropriately and safely use these devices is more important than ever. This fact remains: regardless of which side of the PED debate you're on.



Do you have this app yet? It is called Aurasma and one is "happening" right outside room 257.

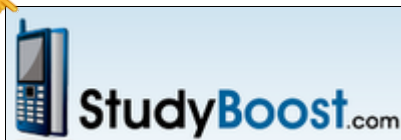


Technology at Work

3 appropriate ways to use a smartphone in your classroom.



Create a new number and forward all your existing numbers to this single hub. It gives people a chance to contact you without knowing your personal number. Voicemails are transcribed and stored along with text messages, which makes it a great tool for documentation. In addition, you can type or record messages to send to groups of contacts quickly and easily.



Take advantage of your student's texting ability. Once they sign up, students can ask and answer "batches" of questions created by the teacher or each other. They receive instant feedback via text message. There is even an app for facebook.



This free text-to-speech tool allows students to podcast live to the web from any phone. Alternative assessment, student data collection, remote learning, stakeholder communication - the possibilities are amazing!

On Ed Tech, we're asking the wrong question.

By Dennis Pierce

Does the use of textbooks lead to better student achievement? Somebody should do the research. Schools nationwide are spending billions of dollars each year on textbooks, with no clear evidence they improve test scores—and stakeholders deserve some answers...

(...continued here)



What the research says about PEDs:



Three trends are emerging.

1. Mobile learning: using small, portable devices to facilitate anytime, anywhere, un-tethered learning is gaining popularity.
2. Portable Electronic Devices are creating an ever-increasing growth in online and blended learning environments.
3. More and more classrooms are making use of digital rich content.

In short, PEDs have the ability not only to enrich a classroom, but extend learning beyond the regular school day.

